



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDING OFFICER  
USS JOHN HANCOCK (DD-981)  
FPO MIAMI 34091

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750  
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From: Commanding Officer, USS John Hancock (DD 981)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington, DC 20374  
Subj: 1985 Command History (OPNAV 5750-1) for USS John Hancock (DD 981);  
submission of  
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C  
Encl: (1) 1985 Chronology of Events  
(2) 1985 Command Narrative  
(3) Biography of Captain J.P. Collins, Jr.  
(4) Biography of Commander M.F. Martus

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are forwarded.

*M. F. Martus*  
M. F. MARTUS

## SUMMARY OF EVENTS 1985

1 JAN - Anchored at Sitrah anchorage off Mina Sulman, Bahrain  
2 JAN - Underway from Sitrah enroute Radar Picket Station (RPS) in central Persian Gulf  
9 JAN - Brief stop for fuel (BSF), Sitrah anchorage  
10-19 JAN - On station in RPS  
19 JAN - BSF Sitrah  
20-24 JAN - On station in RPS  
25-28 JAN - PVST Mina Sulman, Bahrain  
29 JAN-04 FEB - On station RPS  
05-09 FEB - PVST Mina Sulman, Bahrain  
10-16 FEB - On station RPS  
17-21 FEB - PVST Mina Sulman, Bahrain  
22-27 FEB - On station RPS  
28 FEB - BSF Sitrah  
02 MAR - Exit Straits of Hormuz  
05 MAR - RDVU with USS ARTHUR W. RADFORD in Arabian Sea for Middle East Force turnover  
08-11 MAR - PVST Djibouti, Djibouti  
11-14 MAR - Transit Red Sea  
15 MAR - Anchor Port Suez awaiting Suez Canal Northbound Convoy  
16 MAR - Transit Suez Canal  
22-25 MAR - PVST Malaga, Spain  
26 MAR - BSF Rota, Spain  
06 APR - Arrive Charleston  
07 APR - Commence leave and stand down period  
15 MAY - Underway for Independent Steaming Exercise in Charleston OPAREA  
16 MAY - Moor Charleston  
24 MAY - Underway for Midshipman training cruise (LANTRAMID I)  
27-30 MAY - PVST Cape Canaveral, FL  
03 JUN - Brief stop in Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico for NGFS brief  
04-05 JUN - PVST St. Johns, Antigua  
06-07 JUN - Naval Gunfire Support Qualifications at Vieques Island, PR  
07 JUN - BSF Roosevelt Roads, PR  
08 JUN - Spotter services Vieques Island, PR  
12 JUN - Moor Charleston  
20 JUN - Change of Command; Captain John P. Collins relieved by Commander Michael F. Martus  
23 JUN - Underway for USS FORRESTAL escort services  
30 JUN - Moor Charleston  
26 JUL - Underway for Central American Operations with USS EISENHOWER Battle Group  
30 JUL-02 AUG - PVST Puerto Cortez, Honduras  
03-05 AUG - Carrier escort operations  
06-07 AUG - Conducted Helo landing qualifications with UH-1 Blackhawk Helo detachment from Ft. Carson, Colorado  
10 AUG - Moor Charleston  
16 AUG - Underway for Midshipman Training Cruise (LANTRAMID IV)  
22-26 AUG - PVST Port Everglades, FL  
30 AUG - PVST Savannah, GA  
31 AUG - Underway from Savannah for evasion of hurricane Elaine  
01 SEP - Moor Charleston  
18 SEP - Underway for Operational Propulsion Plant Examination preparation  
19 SEP - Moor Charleston

25 SEP - Sortie for Evasion of Hurricane Gloria

27 SEP - Moor Charleston

• 10-11 OCT - Underway in Charleston OPAREA for Operational Propulsion Plant Examination

11 OCT - Moor Charleston

23 OCT - Commence selected restricted availability

## COMMAND HISTORY 1985 NARRATIVE

1985 was another busy operational year for USS JOHN HANCOCK (DD 981). The year started with the ship deployed as a part of Middle East Force 2-85. While the ship was in the Persian Gulf she was tasked with surveillance of merchant shipping and maintaining a communications and data link with Air Force E-3 aircraft operating out of Rijhad, Saudi Arabia. On several occasions the ship was called upon to provide humanitarian assistance to merchant vessels damaged in the Iran-Iraq "Tanker War". Upon detachment from the Middle East Force the ship made port visits in Djibouti, and Malaga, Spain.

After a leave and upkeep period, JOHN HANCOCK embarked 16 Third Class Midshipmen and 5 First Class Midshipmen for a midshipmen training cruise (LANTRAMID I). The ship participated as part of a highly successful Midshipmen training squadron which exposed the prospective Naval Officers to all aspects of surface warfare. The cruise included Naval Gunfire support exercises at Vieques Island, Puerto Rico with the ship firing over 500 rounds of 5"/54 am munition for qualification and spotter training.

On 20 June Captain John P. Collins, Jr. was relieved by Commander Michael F. Martus as Commanding Officer. Later in July the ship got underway for Central American Operations with the USS EISENHOWER Battle Group. The operation included a 3 day port visit in Puerto Cortez, Honduras and UH-1 Black Hawk helo landing qualifications with a U.S. Army detachment from Ft. Carson, Colorado. The opportunity to conduct shipboard landings was a unique opportunity for the the Army pilots.

On the 16th of August the ship was again underway for midshipmen training, this time as a part of LANTRAMID IV. The cruise included port visits in Port Everglades, FL and Savannah, GA. The three day port visit in Savannah was reduced to one day when the ship was forced to sortie for evasion of hurricane "Elaina". The ship was again sortied in September for evasion of Hurricane "Gloria" with had the potential to be the most violent storm of the century. During the Sortie JOHN HANCOCK acted as Flagship for the Sortie Commander, COMDESRON 4 Commodore Earner.

On the 23rd of October JOHN HANCOCK began a Selected Restricted AVailability. The SRA proved to be highly successful with 245 work items being completed in a brief 53 day period. At the close of the year JOHN HANCOCK remained inport Charleston enjoying a holiday leave period in anticipation of a busy year in 1986 which will include several major Fleet Exercises and a deployment to Northern Europe with the Standing Naval Forces Atlantic.